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## INTERNAL COMMERCE

**July Business Was Greater  
Than a Year Ago.**

**The Chief Exception Was  
in the Grain Receipts at  
Interior Markets.**

Washington, Sept. 9.—Principal interior commerce movements during July, as reported to the bureau of statistics, department of commerce and labor, show, on the whole, a larger volume than the corresponding movements of a year ago, the only exception being the grain receipts at primary interior markets, which are considerably below the July, 1906, figures. As compared with the extraordinary activity during the earlier part of the year, the rate of output of some basic industries, such as anthracite coal, coke and pig iron production, shows a slight let up, though the figures for the month are largely in excess of those for July, 1906. The ore handlers' strike in the Lake Superior region, while curtailing iron ore shipments for the month, affected but little the volume of lake traffic as a whole, the freight tonnage shipped during the month, 11,478,971 net tons, being the largest on record and about 10 per cent larger than the corresponding 1906 total.

Grain receipts during July at fourteen interior primary markets, 47,140,065 bushels, are considerably below the corresponding 1906 and even 1905 figures of 62,387,897 and 55,396,495 bushels, respectively. Smaller receipts for the month are shown by the more important markets. Thus Chicago reports 14,592,540 bushels compared with 22,423,616 bushels received during July, 1906. Kansas City 5,964,600 bushels compared with 8,506,099 bushels, and

St. Louis 5,960,911 bushels compared with 6,997,603 bushels. The more northern markets, such as Duluth, Minneapolis and Milwaukee, show normal gains as compared with 1906 receipts. Of the total grain receipts for the month at the cities considered, 18,055,491 bushels were wheat, 16,393,010 bushels corn, 10,735,582 bushels oats, 1,824,746 bushels barley, 331,636 bushels rye, and 1,426,646 bushels flaxseed. The large loss in the receipts of wheat and oats as compared with 1906 returns is the most noteworthy fact revealed by these figures.

Arrivals of live stock at seven interior primary markets during July aggregated 3,313,065 head, a total in excess of like figures for the two preceding months, as well as of the July figures in 1906 and 1905, of 3,046,479 and 2,798,629 head, respectively. As compared with July, 1906, receipts, all cities, with the exception of St. Paul, show larger totals, the gains being most notable in the case of Kansas City, St. Louis and Sioux City. Larger receipts as compared with 1906 figures are shown in the case of cattle, 783,869 head, as against 699,796; calves, 85,037, compared with 78,715; and hogs, 1,777,845, compared with 1,537,780 head, while the number of sheep, horses and mules received during the month is considerably below the 1906 figures. Receipts at the same cities for the first seven months of the year, 23,365,307 head, are also in excess of the corresponding 1906 and 1905 figures of 22,073,573 and 22,197,854 head, respectively, gains being shown by all cities except Chicago and St. Paul.

Shipments of packing house products from Chicago during July totaled 205,001,111 pounds, compared with 205,881,032 pounds and 195,688,894 pounds shipped during July, 1906 and 1905, respectively. For the first time a comparison of the monthly 1907 figures with those for 1906 shows gains in the shipments of some important meat products.

Eastbound trunk line movements of provisions from Chicago and Chicago Junction points during the five weeks ending July, 112,007 tons, show a considerable improvement over the corresponding 1906 figures of 89,036 tons, being even larger than the July, 1905, figures of 103,107 tons. Figures for thirty-one weeks of the season, 493,216 tons, are, however, much below the corresponding 1906 and 1905 figures of 529,717 tons and 774,902 tons, respectively.

Shipments of pine lumber from Virginia and the Carolinas during the month, 42,602,809 feet, were largely in excess of July, 1906, shipments of 27,845,123 feet. Over 78 per cent of the total shipments for the seven months of the year, 282,549,685 feet, are over 17 per cent in excess of the corresponding 1906 figures of 240,949,888 feet.

June shipments of yellow pine from eight southern and southwestern states are given as 201,668,363 feet, compared with 236,210,970 feet shipped during June, 1906, and 283,047,346 feet shipped during June, 1905. Figures for the first half of the year, 1,991,613,200 feet, are 60 per cent in excess of corresponding 1906 figures and 26 per cent in excess of 1905 figures.

Coastwise receipts of southern pine at New York during the month ending July 25, 42,859,453 feet, for the

first time in the year, show a considerable increase over the corresponding 1906 figures of 36,709,799 feet, while the receipts for the seven months of the year, 252,163,736 feet, are about 22 per cent below corresponding 1906 receipts, the season's figures being lower for practically all the more important shipping ports.

Shipments of redwood lumber from upper California during July aggregated 35,805,624 feet, compared with 32,556,967 feet and 33,878,140 feet shipped during the corresponding 1906 and 1905 periods. About three-fourths of the total, viz. 26,463,128 feet, were destined to San Francisco Bay, about 17 per cent to southern California, and the rest to miscellaneous, including foreign, ports. The total shipments for the seven months of the year, 260,158,173 feet, are over 27 per cent in excess of the corresponding 1906 figures and about 35 per cent larger than the corresponding 1905 figures.

Arrivals of pine and fir at California points during July, 28,654,620 feet, are considerably below the figures for the earlier months of the year, and even lower than the corresponding 1906 figures. The total arrivals for the seven months of the year, 863,818,070 feet, are, however, over 40 per cent in excess of the corresponding 1906 figures.

Anthracite coal shipments during July from eastern producing regions, 5,602,435 gross tons, while lower than the figures for the three preceding months, are, however, in excess of any July figures since 1901. Figures for the seven months of the year, 38,487,939 gross tons, are also the largest figures on record since 1901.

The estimated coke production at Connellsville, including the lower district, for the thirty-one weeks of the year, 12,679,377 net tons, is about 9 per cent in excess of the corresponding 1906 figures of 11,665,112 net tons, although the weekly average production for the month is slightly below the average for the three earlier months of the year.

Figures of pig iron production (exclusive of small quantities of charcoal iron) for July, 2,259,682 gross tons, while over 12 per cent in excess of the corresponding 1906 figures, indicate, however, a daily rate of production slightly lower than that displayed by the May and June figures of the same year. Figures for the seven months of the year, 15,486,136 gross tons, are over 8 per cent in excess of the corresponding 1906 figures.

Reports of building operations for the month, from 55 cities in all parts of the country, show an aggregate value of building permits granted of \$51,973,858, as compared with \$58,488,519 for July, 1906, decreased activity being reported, among others, from New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and San Francisco. The cities in the middle west, including Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, and Milwaukee, on the whole, show larger totals than a year ago. Figures for the seven months of the year, \$272,885,554, show a loss of about 20 million dollars as compared with corresponding 1906 figures.

Increased traffic activity and a better utilization of the available cars are indicated by the larger number of cars handled by 20 reporting car-service associations, the July figures, 2,452,759 cars handled, being over 10 per cent larger than the July, 1906, totals, while the figures for the seven months, 16,627,529 cars handled, exceed the corresponding 1906 totals by about 1.1 million cars.

much for the timber as it did under the timber and stone act.

Public opinion now demands, not that the government should dispose of its remaining timberlands as rapidly as possible and leave it to private enterprise to exploit the forest hastily, but that what remains of the national forests should be more conservatively used. The government has been forced into the lumber business solely in order that a supply of forest products may be guaranteed to future generations.

Probably 65 per cent of the total stand of merchantable timber within the forests is located on the Pacific coast, where for a long time the enormous supply of privately owned timber will satisfy most of the demand. This more accessible private timber, surrounded the forests as the meat of an apple surrounds the core. It has been entirely eaten away in many places, while in others it is locked up by speculators. The thing to remember, then, is that this immense body of public timber is there as a great reserve against the time when private timberlands will be depleted, and for use as a weapon against monopoly.

The first effect of national forests upon prices, particularly where there is still a great deal of available timber, is to raise the price of outside supply toward its actual value by withdrawing the excess supply of low-priced timber from the market. But later, as the supply of timber dwindles and values are forced upward by speculative holdings, the effect of the forests will be to check the advance of prices.

In the virgin forest, growth is just about balanced by decay. In the western forests, however, natural deterioration is greatly augmented by forest fires. The fires usually do most harm by damaging merchantable timber, but great as this injury is, vastly more actual loss in forest wealth results from the yearly burning over of the grass and undergrowth of the forest. Ground fires do not consume the large trees, but they destroy seedlings outright and injure growing trees so that they quickly decay. Finally, the forest floor, composed of a mold of needles, twigs, and mosses, is burned away.

Beyond the present influence of the national forests upon the lumber supply will be their importance in the future. The United States is now facing a shortage in the stock of available timber. The yield from the national forests will aid greatly to bridge over the period in which mature timber will be lacking, a period which will last from the time the old trees are gone until the young trees are large enough to take their places.

The definite result, therefore, of the sale of timber from the forests will be to sustain the lumber business, to maintain a steady range of timber values and to discourage speculation, and, far more important still, steadily to further the uninterrupted development of the great industries dependent upon wood.

### CRIME CAN BE CHECKED

New York city has a Children's court where juvenile cases only are tried. Think of the judge's responsibility on his decision, says the September Delineator, rests the making or blighting of a precious human life.

In fact, here the judge is a big father in time of greatest need to the multitude of small boys, fearful or sulky, and small girls, hysterical or coldly indifferent, who are haled before him each day to answer charges of lawbreaking—charges that run the gamut of the penal code from the ordinary mischief or irrepressible youth to burglary and attempts at self-destruction. Curiously enough, each one of the score and more of children who have been brought here for attempted suicide has been a girl.

The children's court is often called "the court of one more chance," and little boys and girls are not packed off to institutions unless there is absolutely no other prospect for reformation; for there is always danger that they will be turned out automatons or, if they go to the old barrack reformatories, that they will suffer by contamination.

It is ever remembered that the child is the creature of environment and of opportunity. The court is often a potent factor in improving both. Frequently one of the conditions of the release on parole is that the parents shall move into a different neighborhood to give their children another chance in better surroundings. Eighty-five per cent of these paroled children do so well that their commitment to an institution is not necessary.



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## LUMBER SUPPLY AND NATIONAL FORESTS

Review of a Publication Recently Issued by the Department of Agriculture.

A point in the industrial progress of the United States has now been reached where development of the country is made, not in the face of the forest but with its essential aid. The old process of exhausting the supply of timber in a region and then seeking new fields is practically over. Already the lumber industry is turning back on its tracks. A quality of timber is eagerly sought in the Lake states which a few years ago was ignored as utterly worthless, and in the South the whole pine region is being gone over in a closer search for the old field pine, a tree once despised but now bought up at prices much higher than those formerly paid for the magnificent timber of the virgin forests.

A publication just issued by the Department of Agriculture, entitled "National Forests and the Lumber Supply," defines the important part which the national forests are destined to play in the economic development of the country. Abuses have grown up under the laws which provide for the disposition of public land, notably the segregation of large holdings of timberland for speculative purposes. Timber from the national forests is now purchased by the thousand board feet and payment is made upon the actual scale of the logs when cut. Two dollars and a half per thousand feet is comparatively low as present charges go, but since the cut ranges from 5000 to 20,000 feet per acre, the government receives from five to twenty times as

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